



## **Region # 14**

### **Regional Service Council Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** July 18, 2006

**Meeting Location:** Bartholomew County

**Council Members Present:** Dennis Carmichael, Ruth Alewine, Cindy Doyle-Winslow, Mary Medler, Keith Weedman, Julie Stewart, Alfredo Salazar, Hon. K. Mark Loyd, Hon. Heather Mollo, Gayle Green

**Council Members Absent:** Hon. Jack Tandy, Michael Williams

**Others In Attendance:** Candice McDaniel (intern), Heather Barrett (Villages), Celia Laeird (Central Office), Susie Ross (Preventative Aftercare), Karla Davis (Community Partners/Children's Bureau), Dave Spencer (Whites Family Services), Tim Hammond (IDTC), Brad Barnes (Court Services/Bartholomew Co.), Jim Poulos (George Junior Republic), Scott Stewart (George Junior Republic), Rob Gaskill (Youth Hope/Homebuilders)

<b>Meeting Minutes</b>
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**Meeting Called to Order at:** 8:35 am

1. First Order of Business: **Celia Laeird (DCS Programs and Services)**

- Discussion on the provisions of the Residential Contract
  - There has been some concern regarding the 9 month limitation on residential placements
- DCS wanted to limit placements to 6 months; the residential facilities wanted it to be 12 months so a compromise of 9 months was agreed upon.
- The purpose of abbreviating the length of stay was to facilitate earlier planning, initiation, and completion of services.
- Exceptions to this 9 month time limit are subject to approval from the local DCS office and/or agency recommending placement and when necessary, the court; approval from the Regional Manager is **not** necessary.
- Any placement extending beyond 9 months precipitates a new agreement.

- It was mentioned that in the past, residential treatment facilities lagged in getting treatment plans written when they had an extended period of time to do so; the goal of this none month limit is for them to begin those services immediately to serve the best interest of the child.
- Rates for service providers are in negotiation at present. Any increase over 3.5% will be reviewed; however, most quotes are coming in at or below this number.
- Psychiatric placements – According to the contracts, local offices should be informed when these are made. (They were not being informed until they received the bill, in some cases).
  - Also, parents are supposed to be notified when their child is administered psychotropic medications.
- Children in placements may be absent from the facility for up to 5 days with payment from DCS. Any absence that extends beyond this time allotment requires a new placement status.
- Facilities that do not receive payment from DCS within 45 days are authorized to charge the state interest on the outstanding charge; this issue probably will not be pushed due to both parties' desire to maintain the relationship but it **is** in the contract.
- Approximately 12 facilities (out of 88-90) that Indiana contracts with have not returned contracts. If said contracts are not received, these providers will no longer be an option for placements.

## 2. Second Order of Business: **Update on Community Forum**

- Save-the-date postcards are printed and ready for distribution.
- DCS cannot pay for lunch; Stacy Lozer has secured a pizza, breadstick, and salad lunch provider at a cost of \$5 per person. If participants opt not to go with this option, they will provide their own lunch. The invitation will indicate that this is a “working lunch.”
- IYI will facilitate the breakout sessions, compile resulting data, and prepare statistics by county for the County Directors' presentations for each county's “snapshot.”
- If the Judges send Stacy a copy of their signature, letterhead, and if they wish, the body to a letter, she will send it to designated invitees.
- Stacy would like to get the invitations/brochures out in the next 2 weeks or so.

○RSC Members should send any input to Stacy they may have regarding the forum at: [losers@comcast.net](mailto:losers@comcast.net).

### 3. Third Order of Business: **Update on Community Partners Program from Julie Stewart/Children's Bureau**

○Carla Davis has been interviewed and selected as the Region 14 Community Partners for Child Safety Project Director. She will be stationed in the United Way building in Columbus (second floor).  
○Carla will be moving into her office on Friday, July 21, 2006.  
○Carla will begin speaking with members of the community within the following week to determine what some of the unique needs are by region/county/community.

### 4. Fourth Order of Business: **Additional Funding Update**

○Ruth asked for input on what these funds should be allocated towards.  
○The need for a CPCS Program Director and 2 liaisons has been mentioned in the past.  
○Celia recommended that we start with what we know we need and build from there based on what is needed in this particular region. She also suggested that DCS authorizes an agency, such as Children's Bureau, i.e., as a lead organization.  
○Some possible services for subcontracting might include counseling and parenting classes.  
○Services will be up and running by 1.1.07; the goal is by 10.1.06.  
○The dollar amount of the Children's Bureau contract has been increased and there was a discussion about who authorizes the way the money is spent and who authorizes the increase. As our provider, the Children's Bureau is authorized to determine how these funds are fiscally and responsibly allocated.  
○We may need to consider creating a subcommittee to monitor quality of and satisfaction from the services being received by the Children's Bureau.  
○We have until December 2007 to spend these additional funds.

### 5. Fifth Order of Business: **Strategic Planning for RSC**

- Judge Loyd forwarded Ruth a possible facilitator for conducting the strategic planning.
- Stacy Lozer is contracted with the state to do this as well. She conducted Strategic Planning in Lake County to help the management staff focus on key areas and created action steps and a timeline for the strategic plan. A copy of this strategic plan is available for committee members' review.
- MB Lippold can research funds for hiring someone else if it is determined that Stacy will not conduct this strategic planning.
- Stacy has requested, if she is selected, to wait until November to do this, per her schedule and availability.

**6. Sixth Order of Business: CWS Allocations and Guidelines for Use**

- These funds are not for CHINS cases, but more directed towards prevention programs. In the past, this money has been used for schools, summer camps, parent education, etc.
- In 2006, Region 14 was allowed \$750,000. In 2007, this amount will fall to \$458,000. Ruth has this broken down in dollar amounts by county, as well as reserving some for RSC.
- The state has retained \$800,000 from the cutbacks and these funds will be available to regions that request them for purposes such as maintaining programs they would otherwise have to cut because of loss of funds, etc.
- The council agrees that to be effective, they need to be more educated in the future about where these funds are going to be spent before giving their approval.
- It was noted that Community Partners for Child Safety also do a great deal of prevention-based work. DCS should collaborate with them to ensure that all possible areas are covered.

**Next Meeting Date, Location and Time:** August 15, 2006  
 Bartholomew County  
 8:30am

**Meeting Adjourned at:** 9:45am